UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.3/1995/21
20 December 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Twenty-eighth session
27 February-3 March 1995
Item 14 of the provisional agenda*

TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Technical cooperation in statistics

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report summarizes the technical cooperation programmes in statistics of organizations of the United Nations system and several multilateral organizations during the period 1991-1994. It updates the previous report on the subject (E/CN.3/1993/17), which covered the period 1989-1992.

The report includes information on the main components of the technical cooperation programme of the United Nations system (paras. 3-82). Information is presented on technical cooperation activities of the United Nations Secretariat, the regional commissions (paras. 5-56) and the specialized agencies (paras. 57-82). Information supplied by other multilateral agencies is summarized (paras. 83-126). Points for discussion by the Statistical Commission are also included (para. 127).

* E/CN.3/1995/1.

94-48753 (E) 030195 040195

/...

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
INTRODUCTION	1 - 2	3
I. TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM	3 - 82	3
A. United Nations	5 - 56	3
B. Specialized agencies	57 - 82	15
II. OTHER MULTILATERAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES	83 - 126	20
A. Statistical Office of the European Community	83 - 97	20
B. International Statistical Institute	98 - 118	23
C. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development	119 - 120	27
D. Inter-American Statistical Institute	121 - 126	27
III. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION	127	28
Annex. Statistical tables		30

INTRODUCTION

1. At its twenty-seventh session, the Statistical Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, at its twenty-eighth session, a report on technical cooperation in statistics. 1/ Taking into account the views expressed by the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination at its seventeenth session (see CN.3/1995/2) the present report includes a summary of activities and expenditures in technical cooperation programmes in statistics during the period 1991-1994.

2. The information in the present report and its annex was supplied by the organizations concerned in response to a questionnaire from the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat (UNSTAT). There was considerable difficulty in standardizing the estimates provided by the various organizations. Some organizations stated that it was difficult to identify and measure separately technical cooperation activities and regular work programme activities. Since information included in the present report does not cover all the specialized agencies involved in technical cooperation in statistics, no attempt has been made to aggregate the expenditure of different agencies.

I. TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

3. Information relating to technical cooperation programmes of the United Nations system was submitted by UNSTAT and the statistical offices of the regional commissions, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The Statistical Office of the European Community (Eurostat), the International Statistical Institute (ISI), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Inter-American Statistical Institute also provided information. Some organizations provided written statements and data, some provided data only and some provided statements only.

4. The tables in the annex provide data on expenditure for the years 1991-1994. Data for 1994 are estimates based on the budget for 1994 at the beginning of the calendar year. Tables A.1 and A.2 provide information on expenditure by organization/body and major component, table A.3 provides information on expenditure by region, and tables A.4 and A.5 provide information on expenditure by organization/body and subject area.

A. United Nations

5. The United Nations technical cooperation programme in statistics refers to the programme of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis of the United Nations Secretariat and of the five regional commissions. The Department was formally established effective 1 April 1993. Since the new Department incorporates, inter alia, many of the mandates and functions of the

former Department of Economic and Social Development, as well as some of the duties of the former Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, for statistical purposes reference is made to the new Department alone for the whole period 1991-1994 covered by the present report. It should also be noted that, following the restructuring of the United Nations Secretariat in 1993, the managerial and substantive support activities for technical cooperation in statistics have been integrated in UNSTAT.

6. The main objective of technical cooperation in statistics is to support national capacity-building by assisting developing countries in strengthening their services and skills. During the period under review, efforts continued with developing countries to promote full access to new techniques for collecting, processing and disseminating statistics. Particular emphasis was placed on alleviating the problems of those developing countries that are the least advanced in statistics; furthering work carried out under the umbrella of the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP); improving gender-related indicators on the situation of women; and advancing the application of the revised System of National Accounts (1993 SNA) in the developing countries and the economies in transition. In Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, and eastern Europe, efforts were made to build up national statistical systems, conduct population and housing censuses, and improve both economic and social statistics systems.

7. Resources made available to the United Nations (Headquarters and regional commissions) for technical cooperation activities in statistics for the formulation and execution of country, regional and interregional projects continued to decline over the period under review. Compared to the 1991 level, United Nations expenditure on technical cooperation in statistics registered a drop of 43 per cent in 1993. Detailed data on United Nations system expenditure on technical cooperation, by major component (personnel, training, equipment), subject area and region, are contained in the annex.

8. Of the 156 country projects executed by UNSTAT in 1993 with financing from UNDP, UNFPA and trust funds, 83 dealt with population and housing censuses; 23 with general statistics, including the establishment and strengthening of statistical offices; 16 with household and related surveys; 13 with civil registration activities; 9 with matters related to national accounts; 4 with gender-related indicators on women; 6 with informatics; and 2 with general economic statistics.

Personnel

9. The personnel component of the technical cooperation programme of the United Nations includes Headquarters and field staff. Headquarters staff incorporates personnel based at United Nations Headquarters in New York and at the headquarters of the regional commissions. At United Nations Headquarters, there are two interregional advisers: one in the area of statistical training and demographic statistics and one in the area of computer methods and informatics. Under the new arrangements, UNFPA has provided UNSTAT with six professional posts: (a) a specialist in population censuses; (b) a specialist in civil registration and vital statistics; (c) a specialist in sampling; (d) a specialist in population statistics and data-processing hardware; (e) a

specialist in population databases and dissemination; and (f) a specialist in household surveys. The post of specialist in household surveys, however, was only filled through September 1993. Those specialists are attached to UNSTAT at United Nations Headquarters and are intended to provide the UNFPA country support teams (CSTs) with state-of-the-art information and research that can be integrated into CST contributions to meeting country needs. In addition, during the period under review three technical advisers provided full-time support for technical cooperation activities related to statistics on women in development. One was financed by the Government of Norway under a trust fund, one by several multilateral agencies and the third by UNFPA. Under the associate expert programme, a junior expert in gender statistics was also financed by the Government of Italy up to the end of 1992. In addition, a coordinator and two other experts have been attached to a project funded by UNFPA for the development and distribution of computer software packages for the processing and analysis of population statistics data, and a specialist on geographical information systems (GIS) has been implementing a UNFPA-funded project on the application of GIS for population statistics.

10. In addition to the above-mentioned technical advisers and specialists, regular staff members of UNSTAT and the statistical offices of the regional commissions contributed overall substantive direction to technical cooperation activities in statistics, and carried out specific missions and functions on an ad hoc basis.

11. In addition to Headquarters personnel, there are local and field staff comprising all staff employed at the country level whose duties are directly related to the execution of, and whose remuneration is charged to, country projects. Of the total United Nations (UNSTAT and regional commissions) expenditure on technical cooperation activities in statistics in 1992, the cost of personnel and field staff accounted for $14 million, of which field staff accounted for $10 million. In 1993, the total cost of the personnel and field staff component declined to $13 million (see table A.2).

Training

12. Training is an essential component of the technical cooperation activities of the United Nations. This category covers fellowships, on-the-job training, study tours, workshops and seminars, and local training provided by field staff, technical advisers and regular staff of the United Nations. Indeed, most country projects provide support for an explicit training component. Tables A.1 and A.2 provide data on the expenditures for training of the various bodies and organizations of the United Nations system. In interpreting the data, however, it should be noted that all resident experts and most short-term consultants provide face-to-face training to counterpart staff during their assignments. Consequently, the expenditure reported under personnel and field staff includes some inherent resources for training.

13. In addition to the specific training activities contained in country projects, there are other training activities financed by the regular programme for technical cooperation of the United Nations, such as a project on training arrangements of junior statisticians and programmers for promoting technical

cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) and the organization of training workshops.

14. During 1993 and 1994, the following workshops were convened under the regular programme for technical cooperation in statistics:

(a) A regional workshop for women statisticians (Gaborone, Botswana, 1 June-14 July 1993), organized in cooperation with the Department of Statistics of the University of Botswana. Eighteen women statisticians from English-speaking African countries attended;

(b) A regional workshop for women statisticians (Kigali, Rwanda, 17 November-18 December 1993), organized in collaboration with the Institut mauricien et africain pour la statistique et économie appliquée. Fifteen women statisticians from French-speaking African countries attended;

(c) A regional workshop for basic statistics training (Gaborone, Botswana, 17 October-25 November 1994), organized in cooperation with the Department of Statistics of the University of Botswana. Seventeen statisticians from seven African countries attended.

15. UNSTAT also collaborated with the Russian Federation to organize a regional workshop on the theme "Use of the System of National Accounts in transition economy countries" (Saint Petersburg, 25-28 October 1994). Thirty-five participants from 26 countries attended. The workshop was funded by UNDP.

16. The following workshops were funded by UNFPA:

(a) A western Asia workshop on strategies for accelerating the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems (Damascus, 20-24 June 1993), organized by UNSTAT in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), UNFPA and the Government of Syria. Seventy-three participants from 15 countries attended;

(b) An East and South Asian workshop on strategies for accelerating the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems (Beijing, 29 November-3 December 1993), organized by UNSTAT in collaboration with ESCWA, UNFPA and the Government of China. Fifty-nine participants from 17 countries attended.

Equipment

17. Equipment provided under the United Nations technical cooperation programmes in statistics included computer hardware and software; vehicles; cartographic and printing equipment and general office equipment and supplies (see tables A.1 and A.2).

Expenditure by region

18. A regional breakdown of expenditures by United Nations Headquarters and the regional commissions is provided in table A.3. Most of the United Nations technical cooperation activities in statistics were directed towards Africa

(over 50 per cent of the total expenditure from 1991 to 1993). Asia received 15 per cent of the total budget in 1991 and 9 per cent in 1993. Latin America and the Caribbean received 6 per cent in 1991, 9 per cent in 1992 and 7 per cent in 1993. The Middle East and Europe accounted for 24 per cent in 1991, 25 per cent in 1992 and a high of 33 per cent in 1993. The growth of expenditure in the Middle East and Europe is partly attributable to the increase in technical cooperation activities in the European economies in transition.

Expenditure by subject area

19. Technical cooperation projects executed by the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis in 1991-1994 covered various subject areas (see tables A.4 and A.5). Expenditure on demographic and social statistics, including population and housing censuses, continued to account for a considerable portion of the expenditure (over 67 per cent), which is attributable to the implementation of the 1990 round of the World Population and Housing Census Programme.

1. Economic Commission for Africa

20. The primary objective of technical cooperation in the field of statistics undertaken by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) continues to be the provision of assistance to its member States in establishing and/or developing a durable infrastructure for the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of the statistical data required for planning, monitoring and evaluating social and economic development programmes.

21. Formerly, major ECA technical assistance activities in statistics were carried out under three main projects: the Statistical Development Programme for Africa (SDPA), financed by UNDP; the Regional Advisory Service in Demographic Statistics (RASDS), financed by UNFPA; and another UNFPA-funded project attached to the Union douanière et économique de l'afrique central (UDEAC) in central Africa. In addition, resources were made available and activities were carried out under the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (sect. 24): ECA Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group (MRAG). Some technical cooperation activities were also implemented with resources provided under the United Nations regular budget for the subprogramme "Statistical and information systems development".

22. During 1993, ECA technical assistance activities were affected by the termination of the SDPA project at the end of March; in addition, since 1992 the RASDS project has operated within the framework of the UNFPA new regime, in particular, the CSTs located in Addis Ababa, Dakar and Harare. At the end of December 1992, the UDEAC project was also terminated.

23. During 1992-1994, there were altogether nine ECA statistical advisers on CSTs. Within ECA/MRAG, there were one adviser on statistics from 1992 through June 1994 and two advisers in the area thereafter, who provided assistance in economic statistics, including national accounts, and the organization and management of statistical systems.

24. During the period 1992-mid-1994, a total of 152 advisory missions were undertaken, about 75 per cent of which provided technical back-stopping and training in the area of civil registration, census planning, census taking and data analysis and application. The remaining missions covered the areas of integrated household surveys; economic statistics, including national accounts; and statistical database development.

(a) Statistical training

25. Due to financial difficulties, only one short-term fellowship was awarded during the entire period under review.

(b) Household surveys

26. ECA technical assistance in the area of household surveys was provided during 1992 and 1993 by a household survey specialist under the SDPA project and a regional adviser in household surveys provided by ILO and attached to the ECA Statistics Division. ILO has since established its own multidisciplinary subregional teams; consequently, the exact form that ECA/ILO cooperation and assistance in the field of household surveys will take in the future remains to be worked out.

(c) Coordination activities

27. The Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development (CASD) was established in March 1992 during the seventh session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers. The overall objective of CASD is to act as the coordinating body for statistical development activities in the Africa region. The Joint Conference is represented in CASD meetings by members of its Bureau. The CASD secretariat is provided by the ECA Statistics Division and is responsible for the overall monitoring of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s. Subcommittees on the following subjects have been established (convener(s) are noted in parentheses): training (Statistical Office of the European Community and the Overseas Development Administration of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); research, methods and standards (UNSTAT); data processing (Statistics Sweden); and organization and management of national statistical systems (ECA and the World Bank). The 4th meeting of CASD (Addis Ababa, 24 and 25 March 1994) was preceded by individual as well as joint meetings of the CASD subcommittees.

2. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

28. Under its statistical development component, the statistics subprogramme of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) assists members and associate members of ESCAP in improving and developing national statistical capabilities. The activities organized under this component also promote international statistical standards to enhance national and international comparisons of data. Technical assistance to the developing countries of the region is provided in various areas of statistics through advisory services, technical meetings, training courses and workshops, and study

tours and exchange visits between countries of the region. During the period under review, the ESCAP secretariat was able to launch multiple-year projects for the improvement of statistics on topics of contemporary interest, such as gender statistics and environmental accounting. As a result, the total expenditure on technical cooperation in statistics rose to US$ 1.2 million in 1994, after a decline from US$ 942,000 in 1992 to US$ 768,000 in 1993. The secretariat has also strengthened its collaboration and liaison with various agencies within and outside the United Nations system in order to enhance the effectiveness and coordination of technical assistance to the countries of the region, through, for example, direct cooperation in organizing technical meetings.

29. Regional advisory services are considered an effective means of statistical capacity-building and remain an important part of statistical development activities. However, since the beginning of 1993 direct regional advisory services in statistics available from the ESCAP secretariat have been essentially restricted to the area of national accounts, although limited advisory assistance has also been provided in the fields of environment statistics, statistics on gender issues and price statistics. The three advisory posts of the Statistics Development Section in the area of demographic statistics that are financed by UNFPA (on population censuses and surveys, data processing and data management, and population statistics) are currently attached to CSTs.

30. During 1991-1994, the ESCAP secretariat continued to provide substantive and administrative support to its training arm, the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), mounting, inter alia, a review of SIAP training courses and activities in the area of statistics on poverty. SIAP organized annual medium-term group training courses in practical statistics, analysis and interpretation, data processing, and a number of short-term courses in various areas, such as statistics for food security, household surveys and indicators for monitoring mortality trends. Some 20 country courses were also organized on a wide variety of topics. Collaboration with SIAP on statistical development activities increased during the reporting period. Under the series of seminars/workshops on the major theme "Managing national statistical services", which was initiated in 1989, a workshop on data dissemination that focused on monitoring human development was convened in 1993. 2/

31. In the area of statistics on gender issues, the ESCAP secretariat organized a regional training workshop and four subregional meetings/workshops (separately for Asia and the Pacific) under two separate but linked projects aimed at producing, among other things, country profiles on women, a regional publication on women and men in Asia and the Pacific, and popular statistical booklets on women and men in participating countries. An expert group meeting on concepts and measurement of national poverty in the ESCAP region was also organized.

32. In the area of economic statistics, subregional seminars on the 1993 SNA were organized separately for Asia and the Pacific. In the area of environment statistics, an expert group meeting and workshop were organized in 1993 with the aim of producing a handbook on environment statistics. A separate project on environmental accounting was initiated at a consultative meeting in 1994.

3. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

33. Technical cooperation in statistics activities included providing advisory services to ESCWA member States and conducting training courses and seminars for officials of statistical departments in the region. Advisory services are at present being provided by three regional advisers, in national accounts and economic statistics, social statistics and data processing. The total number of days spent on advisory services missions was 291 days in 1992, 329 days in 1993 and 206 days in the first three quarters of 1994.

34. Training activities in 1992-1994 included the following workshops and seminars:

(a) A western Asia workshop on strategies for accelerating the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems (Syria, June 1993), organized in cooperation with UNSTAT;

(b) A seminar on household surveys for heads of statistical organizations and senior statisticians in the ESCWA region (Cairo, December 1992);

(c) A workshop on industrial statistics (to be held in November-December 1994) organized in cooperation with the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization and the Islamic Development Bank;

(d) A workshop on the implementation of the 1993 SNA (to be held in Amman, December 1994);

(e) A workshop on GIS (to be held in Qatar, December 1994) organized in cooperation with the University of Qatar.

35. Training activities on GIS and household surveys are executed in the framework of a project on household surveys sponsored by the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND).

4. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

36. Technical cooperation in statistics is provided by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in three ways: (a) technical cooperation by means of executing projects or agreements; (b) the organization of meetings, seminars or training courses; and (c) technical cooperation missions to the countries of the region.

(a) Technical cooperation through execution of projects or agreements

37. Technical cooperation provided by the ECLAC Division of Statistics and Projection (DSP) is largely funded by extrabudgetary resources. DSP assumes the role of executing agency of projects or agreements financed by UNDP, other international bodies or donor countries, in association with the receiving country.

38. The technical cooperation projects or agreements currently being undertaken by DSP (co-sponsors in parentheses) involve: (a) basic guidelines of common action in the mid-term between the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and ECLAC; (b) a programme to improve socio-economic information systems in Uruguay, (ECLAC/Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Uruguay); (c) indicators for social policy formulation in Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC/the Netherlands); an ECLAC/IDB cooperation agreement on updating and exchanging basic statistics; (d) an agreement between ECLAC and the World Bank in matters related to household surveys; (e) the improvement of national accounts and production of basic statistics (ECLAC/UNDP/Panama); a technical cooperation project for the improvement of national accounts in Paraguay (ECLAC/UNDP/Paraguay); support to the Central Bank of Honduras in the field of macroeconomic and financial policies and in the improvement of national accounts and basic statistics, (ECLAC/UNDP/Honduras); and support to the countries of the region in the preparation and realization of the Fourth Regional Conference on Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC/UNDP).

(b) Organization of meetings, seminars or training courses

39. As a member of the Executive Committee of the European Centres for Training Statisticians from Developing Countries (CESD), which is based in Madrid, ECLAC collaborated in the organization of training activities in the region as follows:

(a) 1992:

(i) Courses on introduction to national accounting and on institutional and financial accounts sectors (Mexico, August);

(ii) Seminar on social indicators (Bolivia, July);

(iii) Seminar on services statistics (Uruguay, September);

(iv) Seminar on external trade statistics in Central America (Guatemala, September);

(b) 1993: Seminar on services statistics (Bolivia, April);

(c) 1994:

(i) Seminar on external trade statistics for Central America (Costa Rica, July);

(ii) Seminar on external trade statistics for the countries of the Latin America Integration Association (September 1994);

(iii) Seminar on external trade statistics for Central America (November 1994).

40. In addition, in cooperation with UNSTAT and the Oficina Central de Estadística e Informática de Venezuela (OCEI), ECLAC organized a seminar on supporting the renovation of sample frames and sample designs (September 1992).

A workshop on the same topic was held in Trinidad and Tobago (October, 1992). Both activities were undertaken in the framework of a project on the development and execution of sample frames and sample designs for household surveys programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean.

41. A meeting of directors of statistics of the Americas (Spain, November 1992) was organized in cooperation with the National Statistical Institute of Spain. The meeting was attended by 47 representatives from 22 ECLAC member countries and 7 international bodies, and 48 documents were presented. ECLAC acts as technical secretariat for those meetings, which are held every two years.

42. In cooperation with UNSTAT, two meetings were organized on the implementation of the 1993 SNA (Santiago, July and November 1993). The first meeting called for the establishment of a regional group of experts; the second meeting was attended by approximately 50 experts from 22 ECLAC member countries and 7 international organizations.

43. The first joint Organization of American States (OAS)/ECLAC meeting on statistical matters was held (Santiago, 11-14 October 1994); the meeting will be held every two years and will replace the meeting of directors of statistics of the Americas. Thirty representatives from 22 ECLAC member countries and 15 international bodies attended; 43 documents were presented. Seven areas of regional cooperation were selected in the meeting and one country or body was designated to take responsibility for each. ECLAC was assigned to elaborate for the Permanent Steering Committee of the Inter-American Statistical Conference (COM/CIE) at its next meeting a work programme, operative institutional forms and a budget to support compliance with the proposed activities. The seven areas and the countries or bodies responsible for them are: international trade (Argentina); poverty (Costa Rica); training (Chile); environment (Mexico); informal sector (Peru); services (Uruguay); and institutionalization of statistics bodies (ECLAC).

44. Finally, in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a seminar on balance of payments statistics is being organized (to be held in Santiago, 7-25 November 1994). The seminar will be attended by approximately 25 participants from Latin American countries.

(c) Technical cooperation missions to the countries of the region

45. Short-term technical cooperation missions were carried out in 17 countries of the region in the following areas: organization of computing systems for statistical data; household surveys and poverty measurement; external trade; updating of sample frames and sample designs; improvement of national accounts and basic statistics; and construction of short-term databases.

5. Economic Commission For Europe

46. During the last five years (i.e., since the far-reaching political and institutional changes in the economies in transition), the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), in particular the principal ECE subsidiary body, the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), has devoted great

attention to technical assistance for and cooperation with the economies in transition. In addition, the ECE workload has increased in response to the large increase in the number of member countries in the ECE region. It is therefore difficult to separate the general work of the secretariat, much of which assists all ECE member countries, from work that specifically provides technical assistance in statistics for the economies in transition.

47. Technical cooperation in statistics has, moreover, a specific and unique interpretation in the ECE region: the coordination and harmonization of all the statistical activities of every international agency engaged in work relating to countries in the region. That cooperation is evident in the integrated presentation of the work programmes, including technical cooperation programmes, of all the agencies concerned. Although that cooperation is of crucial importance for both the countries and international agencies, it is not dealt with in the present report, which focuses on the technical assistance provided by the ECE secretariat to the economies in transition.

(a) General assistance and cooperation

48. The CES work programme defines its activity in respect of the economies in transition under a separate programme element, as:

(a) To assist the statistical agencies of the economies in transition to produce statistics appropriate to their changing circumstances;

(b) To help statistical agencies in the economies in transition to promote the fundamental values adopted by heads of agencies of ECE member countries;

(c) To promote technical cooperation with statistical agencies in the economies in transition in such a way that it respects basic priorities and minimizes duplication;

(d) To act as an advocate for countries in transition so that international standards and methods are suitable for their use;

(e) To encourage efficient and coordinated delivery of assistance to the economies in transition.

49. Accordingly, the CES work programme defines, among the activities of ECE (with CES priority A), the following general duties:

(a) Structure all subprogrammes and plenary sessions of the Conference to reflect the priority concerns of the economies in transition;

(b) Participate in inter-agency collaborative efforts aimed at assisting the economies in transition.

(b) Activity of the regional adviser on statistics of ECE

50. As of 2 May 1994, a new post was established in the ECE Statistical Division for providing technical assistance in statistics to the economies in transition. At the most recent session of CES (Paris, 13-17 June 1994), which

was attended by most of the heads of the statistical offices of the economies in transition, as well as by representatives of all potential donor countries and international organizations, an information note was distributed on the type and conditions of the services offered by the ECE regional adviser to countries. In the second half of 1994, the regional adviser was due to visit Croatia, Slovakia, Lithuania and the Czech Republic, and to attend a seminar on use of the SNA in transition economy countries (St. Petersburg) and a workshop on implementation of the SNA (Warsaw). In addition, the regional adviser represents ECE in international working groups or steering committees that deal with the harmonization of technical assistance.

(c) Development of the United Nations Development Programme programme on economic and social statistics and human development reports in countries in transition

51. This programme was launched in 1992 and at a subsequent workshop (Bratislava, Slovakia, January 1993), its major objectives were established. ECE cooperated in the formulation and description of the programme document and, in agreement with the Director of the UNDP Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the ECE Statistical Division will be the executing agency of the programme for three years (1994-1996). The project is intended to assist all the economies in transition in the region but will be aimed particularly at the newly independent States. It is expected that the programme document will be signed by a sufficient number of countries in November and December 1994 after a workshop to be held at the end of October 1994 for the heads of the statistical offices of the economies in transition.

(d) Establishment of an electronic network between the Economic Commission for Europe and the economies in transition

52. The project aims (a) to collect statistical data via electronic data interchange (EDI) from the economies in transition, and (b) to implement international EDIFACT standards for EDI in those countries.

53. Work on an electronic network (Statnet) between ECE and the countries of central and eastern Europe started in 1992 in the ECE Statistical Division. The following countries have since been connected to Statnet: Albania, Romania, the Czech Republic, the Russian Federation, Croatia, Slovakia, Estonia, Slovenia and Poland. Other countries are expected to join the network in the near future.

(e) Participation in the planning and holding of the 1994 population census in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

54. Under the auspices of the Council of Europe and the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia, a group of experts was established to assist the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in planning and holding its 1994 population census. A staff member of the ECE Statistical Division undertook five missions (one to Strasbourg and four to Skopje, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) as a member of the expert group. The group also established a team of international observers, who observed the field procedures

for the census. The travel costs of ECE participation in the work of the group were covered by the European Union.

(f) Assistance provided by the Economic Commission for Europe to the economies in transition in the area of agriculture statistics

55. The ECE secretariat participates in the joint (ECE-Eurostat-FAO-OECD) multi-annual programme of assistance to the economies in transition in establishing new agricultural statistics and in preparing the round of agricultural censuses envisaged for the year 2000 by FAO. Three workshops have been jointly prepared and held (Sofia, Bulgaria, 18-22 May 1992; Jachtonka, Poland, 29 March-2 April 1993; and Minsk, Belarus, 25-29 April 1994). The next workshop (to be held in Slovenia, autumn 1995) is under preparation.

56. It should be mentioned that among the many other international organizations (UNSTAT, Eurostat, OECD, IMF, the World Bank, the CIS Statistical Commission etc.), ECE plays a relatively modest role in terms of the size and scope of its direct technical assistance. However, in its capacity as the CES secretariat, its contribution to their aggregated efforts is increased by its integrating function and through the ongoing CES work programme.

B. Specialized agencies

1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

57. FAO has continued to provide technical assistance for the development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries statistics during the period under review. FAO expenditure on technical cooperation in statistics slightly exceeded US$ 9 million in 1992, approached US$ 10 million in 1993 and is expected to be US$ 9.1 million in 1994. The breakdown by sector for 1994 estimates that expenditure on food and agricultural statistics will be $6.2 million, with almost $2.3 million of that sum to go to forestry statistics and $0.6 million to go to fishery statistics. The breakdown by region for 1994 estimates that about US$ 4.1 million will go to the Africa region and about US$ 4 million will go to the Asia and the Pacific region. The two regions together account for over 87 per cent of current expenditure on technical cooperation.

58. The cost of experts and consultants assigned to country and regional projects was US$ 6.7 million in 1992 and US$ 5.6 million in 1993, and is estimated to be US$ 5.1 million or 56 per cent of total expenditure in 1994. During the period under review, an increasing proportion of that expenditure has gone to training, expenditure for which rose from 7 per cent in 1992 to 21 per cent in 1994. Training has focused particularly on agricultural censuses and surveys as well as economic statistics of the forestry sector, mainly in the Africa and the Asia and the Pacific regions.

2. International Civil Aviation Organization

59. During the period 1992-1994 States continued to rely on air transport economists located at ICAO regional offices for advice on aviation statistics

matters. Some UNDP-financed country or regional projects included a provision for technical guidance in the field of aviation statistics, but it is not possible to identify the actual costs or work hours of technical guidance in statistics, since the projects were broader in scope and involved statistics as only one of a number of elements. Similarly, courses at some aviation training centres included statistics as one of the elements of more general air transport economics courses.

60. ICAO continued its programme of regional workshops on aviation statistics. Three such workshops were conducted during 1992-1994 for States in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe. The workshops are generally of a one-week duration and are intended to provide an informal forum for discussing statistical problems and exchanging information and experience.

61. Technical guidance to providers and users of ICAO civil aviation statistics is given in the Manual on the ICAO Statistics Programme, a new edition of which was issued in June 1994. Guidance to providers is also available through detailed explanations that are included in ICAO air transport reporting forms.

62. Efforts have continued to ascertain the statistical collection and reporting difficulties of States, as well as to find measures to overcome such problems, particularly through increased automation in the reporting and dissemination of aviation statistics. Some progress has been made but much remains to be done at a time when funds for technical cooperation remain inadequate.

(a) Plans of the International Civil Aviation Organization for statistics, 1995-1997

63. ICAO will continue to collect and publish world-wide statistics in all the different civil aviation fields, including airlines aircraft, airports and air navigation facilities. Efforts will also continue to rationalize and simplify the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics. Coordination and harmonization with other international organizations will be intensified. ICAO will continue to pursue the development of automation in the transmission of statistical material among the providers of input data, the ICAO secretariat and the recipients of the processed statistics, along with efforts to improve productivity and quality-control measures. A representative body of member States is expected to be convened in 1996 to review every aspect of the ICAO statistics programme.

(b) Overall review of the statistical work of the organization

64. The ICAO Statistics Panel, an advisory body of 15 experts from different regions of the world, met in Montreal from 29 November to 3 December 1993. The Panel reviewed the status of statistics reporting to ICAO and provided advice on possible measures for the former USSR; the consequences of air transport measures within the European Union; the statistics of international trade by air; the confidentiality of ICAO in-flight origin and destination statistics; the further development of standard electronic formats for the collection of ICAO statistics; further development of regional compendia of statistics; the

collection of delay statistics; and the status of the airport financial data programme.

65. The 17th, 18th and 19th editions of Civil Aviation Statistics of the World, the ICAO statistical yearbook, were issued during this period. In addition, 25 statistical digests were issued on the different areas of the ICAO statistics programme. Shortage of resources continued to hamper the timely production of statistical publications.

66. As in the past, ICAO provided air transport statistics to various United Nations bodies and other international organizations and regional organizations. Efforts continued to further strengthen relations with international and regional organizations concerned with civil aviation, and several regional workshops on aviation statistics were conducted in different regions of the world.

3. International Labour Organization

67. ILO continued to provide technical cooperation services in statistics to developing countries during the period 1992-1994. Technical cooperation in labour statistics financed by the ILO regular budget have generally covered short-term advisory services. However, those advisory services have been provided by experts operating within the framework of the inter-agency National Household Survey Capability Programme for the last time; as of 1994, such advisory services will be provided within the framework of ILO multidisciplinary teams.

68. The geographical distribution of ILO expenditure has changed somewhat. Since 1992, requests for technical cooperation in the field of labour statistics has been coming mostly from the central and eastern European countries (CEEC). While 84 per cent of expenditure was for Africa and 0.01 per cent for CEEC in 1992, the percentages were 35 per cent for Africa and 29 per cent for CEEC in 1994. A number of new requests were received from the Middle East region.

4. International Monetary Fund

69. The IMF programme of technical assistance in statistics was formulated to help countries restructure their statistical systems to generate essential macroeconomic data for policy formulation and analysis. Technical assistance projects focus on the need to produce timely and accurate economic and financial statistics in the short term; they also focus on the creation of data sources, the development of an appropriate institutional structure and the introduction of compilation methods that will bring benefits over the longer term. The IMF programme focuses on statistics in the areas of balance of payments; money and banking; government finance; national accounts; price; and international trade.

70. A sizeable proportion of technical cooperation in statistics is provided through short-term missions undertaken by IMF staff and externally recruited experts. Such visits may focus on a specific area of statistics or may involve a multi-topic mission that examines a range of statistical issues. Often,

technical cooperation takes the form of an initial multi-topic assessment mission that presents a broad view of the statistical system, followed by a second multi-topic mission that provides specific recommendations for reform in both methodology and compilation practices. A comprehensive report or aide-mémoire, containing recommendations for further action and technical assistance, is prepared in a preliminary form by the mission for discussion with national authorities before its departure; a final report is submitted to those authorities after review at IMF headquarters.

71. In a number of countries, technical support on a more continuous basis has been supplied by resident statistical advisers who work in a country for a period of up to two years. This has proven very effective in monitoring progress between missions and in providing advice on a daily basis.

72. Almost all missions, both multi-topic and single-topic, involve a significant component of training in specialized IMF fields of methodology. That training is conducted in the form of seminars for officials of relevant government agencies and is reinforced by training courses in statistics offered by the Statistics Department at the IMF Institute, at the Joint Vienna Institute and at locations provided by member countries.

73. Two persistent problems facing technical assistance are (a) the rapid turnover of staff at recipient institutions and (b) a lack of computing facilities. A rapid turnover of staff is frequently encountered in countries in a politically unstable situation and can also impair the efficiency of technical assistance in statistics in other countries, especially if there is a general scarcity of well-trained and experienced staff and statistical institutes are unable to offer competitive benefits. A lack of computing facilities hampers the efficiency of technical assistance because it limits the efficiency of available staff and impedes the introduction of the dedicated compilation software that is offered, such as spreadsheets developed for the compilation of specific statistics.

5. World Health Organization

74. The Programme of Health Situation and Trend Assessment (HST) coordinated the third report on the monitoring of progress in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000; the report covers the period 1991-1993 and contains information on 131 countries with a population of 4.8 billion.

75. In the western Pacific, support was provided in the form of workshops on strengthening national health information systems, including workshops on the improvement of medical record systems (Cambodia, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Samoa and Tonga) and on the design and analysis of the rapid evaluation of health services (China, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam).

76. In South-East Asia, technical support was provided to Bangladesh, where WHO is responsible for developing an information-management system for health data and for strengthening the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and

Research in Dhaka, Bangladesh, as part of the fourth population and health project of the World Bank. Collaborative efforts to improve the quality of mortality statistics continued in India, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The enhancement of health information systems in Maldives was supported through various activities, including activities in the areas of (a) priority indicator identification, and (b) database design and development. Pakistan was supported in the strengthening of its national epidemiological capacity.

77. In Europe, HST collaborated in the establishment of an emergency monitoring system in former Yugoslavia. Support was also provided for (a) the review of available data for the development of health services indicators in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, and (b) health information needs assessment in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

78. In the eastern Mediterranean, intercountry activities involving senior national staff were organized to promote the use of epidemiology for disease prevention and control; a regional advisory panel on health information systems was established; a plan of action for the creation or improvement of national health statistics information system was prepared; and workshops were organized on (a) the district team problem-solving approach in Oman, Sudan and Tunisia, and (b) the development of health information systems and health systems research in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

79. In the Americas, collaboration continued with the Organization of American States on strategies to improve the coverage and quality of vital statistics in member States. A project on epidemiological surveillance systems was developed for the Central American countries; guidelines for analysing the health situation at the local level were developed in Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua; support was given in the application of district team problem-solving in Mexico; and direct cooperation was provided to the investigation of cholera outbreaks in Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador and Guatemala.

80. In Africa, technical support was given for (a) the surveillance of childhood diseases in Cameroon; (b) a four-phased rapid evaluation of maternal care and the application of district team problem-solving in Tanzania; (c) the development of a regional health database in Togo; (d) the design of rapid evaluation of maternal and child-health services in Uganda; (e) cholera surveillance systems in Zambia; and (f) the field testing of guidelines for evaluating disease surveillance systems in Zimbabwe.

81. The Tenth Revision of International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) was published in English (vols. 1-3, 1992-1994) and in French (vol. 1, 1993). Assistance was provided to several countries in the preparation of ICD-10 in their national languages. The first international computer-based course for the reorientation of trained coders in the use of ICD-10 (Southampton, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 1992) brought together participants from five WHO regions, who will now be able to train national coders. Workshops for the early implementation of ICD-10 were held in Bahrain and in the eastern Mediterranean and Europe.

82. One of the main activities of the Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP) is the building up and strengthening of research capabilities in biological statistics and data processing for collaborating centres in the developing countries. The specific objective is to develop self-reliance in the subject-matter for centres involved in international and national multi-centre or single-centre research projects. Among the several mechanisms being used to that end are the award of research training grants in biological statistics and computer science, the provision of data-processing equipment, the organization of training courses, and the attachment of scientists from collaborating centres to the WHO Statistics and Data-Processing Unit in Geneva for practical training.

II. OTHER MULTILATERAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES

A. Statistical Office of the European Community

1. Cooperation with the developing countries, 1992-1994

83. Eurostat statistical cooperation with the developing countries has received a renewed impetus through a new work schedule that has been implemented in close collaboration with the network of the European Centres for Training Statisticians from Developing Countries (CESD), which is the implementing agency for many Eurostat projects.

84. The traditional policy concerns - training, external trade and food security - will still have top priority. However, a series of projects are being developed in other fields, including national accounts, prices, the informal sector, social affairs and the rehabilitation of national statistical systems.

85. During the period under review, six major projects were finalized in traditional Eurostat areas, as follows:

(a) The COMSTAT training project was approved in March 1994. The project has a budget of about 10 million European currency units (ECUs) over five years; it will provide support to a number of African statistical training schools and will also provide support for a series of seminars and workshops to be held in Africa and Europe;

(b) Support of 5 million ECUs to the East Africa Statistical Training Center (EASTC) was approved in January 1994, to comprise a package for institutional and academic development;

(c) The PALOP (African countries with Portuguese as official language) project, with a budget of 3.5 million ECUs, was agreed in 1993 to enable the training of Portuguese-speaking Africans through a programme of training for trainers, seminars and workshops, and technical assistance;

(d) Demand for the "Eurotrace" software package for external trade statistics is increasing; in 1992, a new project for the implementation of "Eurotrace" in the PTA region was launched, with a budget of 6.5 million ECUs.

The project is closely linked to the ASYCUDA customs software, on which Eurostat is working with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD);

(e) The DIAPER III project, with a budget of 10 million ECUs, was launched in 1994. The project aims to build up the capacity of the member States of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) to monitor and forecast agricultural production;

(f) In 1993, the sixth phase of the International Comparison of Prices (ICP) project was started for Africa, with a budget of 1.65 million ECUs. Eurostat hopes that 23 African countries will participate over the two and a half years of the project.

86. Other activities have taken place on a smaller scale, including: (a) institutional development projects with the statistical services of Côte d'Ivoire and Lebanon; (b) a successful survey of the informal sector in Yaoundé, Cameroon, which Eurostat hopes to try out in other countries to see whether the methodology can be transferred; (c) an analysis of push-and-pull factors affecting migration between countries bordering the Mediterranean and the European Union; (d) the development of statistical data-processing systems, in particular one for resource-use balances and input-output tables, which has been tested in the Central African Republic and which Eurostat hopes to extend to other countries; and (e) the relaunch of a statistical databank to satisfy internal queries, which relies on data from other international sources.

2. Future activities

87. The principle of subsidiarity, which governs the work of the European Union, means that coordination and cooperation with member States is of paramount importance. The activities of Eurostat are therefore coordinated as much as possible with those other national and international statistical bodies through an annual formal meeting and also through frequent bilateral contacts.

88. The enlargement of the European Union will bring into Eurostat several major players in statistical cooperation. Coordination will be more and more important; Eurostat shall therefore be increasing its efforts in that direction.

89. Eurostat, in its capacity as co-chairman of the CASD Training Subcommittee, is also at the heart of coordination of statistical training for Africa; the Subcommittee provides a regular opportunity for the exchange of information and discussion of new initiatives.

90. Future developments will include (a) the extension of Eurostat activities to the Mediterranean countries and Latin America; (b) work with the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) on consumer price indices; (c) the institutional development of statistical systems for Palestine and UEMOA; (d) more support for statistical training (projects are being considered for anglophone Africa, for which preliminary studies are under way in eastern Africa and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region); (e) the further development and support of the "Eurotrace" software package (a project to cover the UDEAC countries is being developed, with extension to Central and South

America a distinct possibility; and (f) the development of statistical needs assessments, in which Eurostat is cooperating with national and international organizations to see how that can best be achieved.

3. Cooperation with the countries of central and eastern Europe, 1992-1994

91. Cooperation with the countries of central and eastern Europe is funded through the PHARE 3/ programme of the European Union, mainly under the regional statistical programme. Assistance is being provided from those funds to Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania).

92. This cooperation programme covers two areas: technical assistance and training. Activities include study visits, expert consultancies, seminars and workshops, and participation in training courses and Eurostat working groups. The programme covers a wide range of statistical domains, including national accounts, classifications, business registers, foreign trade statistics, enterprise statistics, prices, agriculture statistics, environment statistics, social indicators and statistical data processing. Each year, almost 1,000 cooperative actions are carried out.

93. The objective of the programme is to assist the statistical offices to develop their statistical systems in order to (a) meet the needs of users in government and the private sector for data in a market economy and a democracy; (b) provide relevant information for the monitoring and management of the reform process; and (c) adopt international - particularly European - methodologies, classifications and standards.

94. In January 1994, the statistical offices of seven central and eastern European countries (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Romania) signed a common declaration with Eurostat, expressing their commitment to move even closer to international and European statistical standards and to provide the same data required by Eurostat from European Union member States. Eurostat is working closely with the statistical offices of those seven countries to help them achieve that goal.

95. Future developments in cooperation are expected to include the development of pilot projects with the statistical offices of central and eastern European countries, with the objective of producing tangible comparable results in those countries, while at the same time transferring valuable know-how to the recipient countries.

96. In addition to the regional programme, several important national programmes exist, in particular for the provision of the data-processing equipment necessary for the modernization of statistical systems.

97. Assistance was also provided to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to carry out an extraordinary population census; the main aim of the census was to determine the ethnic composition of the newly independent State and thereby contribute to regional stability.

B. International Statistical Institute

98. Any profile of the ISI technical cooperation programme must focus on the recent emphasis that has been placed on statistical education. During 1992-1994, the ISI statistical education programme has grown rapidly, consolidating and expanding its activities through the outgrowths of the newest ISI Section, the International Association for Statistical Education (IASE). IASE itself has experienced a great many "firsts", including electing its first Executive Committee, which began its term meeting in Perugia, Italy, in advance of the forty-ninth session of IASE, and holding its first General Assembly meeting at the same session. It is anticipated that the new Section will help to amalgamate the diverse groups with an interest in statistical education and thus provide a stronger forum for further progress.

99. The proceedings of the Dublin Seminar on Statistical Confidentiality are now complete and are being distributed by Eurostat. A collaborative effort between the ISI and Eurostat, the Seminar (Dublin, 8-10 September 1992) attracted 125 participants from 23 different countries. Papers were submitted on the many diverse aspects of confidentiality, including philosophical, legislative and technological overviews as well as more specific treatments of the mathematical and computing aspects of data protection, and examinations of confidentiality concerning individual, household, industrial and business data.

100. A round-table meeting focusing on statistical education (Lennoxville, Canada, 10-14 August 1992), addressed the topic "Introducing data analysis in the schools: who should teach it and how?". Speakers from both developing and developed countries provided an overview of the current situation in their countries.

101. At the Seventh International Congress on Mathematical Education (ICME-7) (Laval, Canada, 17-23 August 1992), which many IASE and ISI participants were able to combine with the round-table meeting, two sessions dealt specifically with statistical education issues: one focused on introductory statistics at the school and college levels, the other on the industrial-academic interface in statistical education.

102. At the ASA Winter Conference (Louisville, United States of America, 3-5 January 1992), the theme "Statistical education" was viewed from an international perspective in the two sessions co-sponsored by ISI. ISI presented a paper on increasing the skill requirements of workers around the world, which produces a need for greater statistical skills among the broadest classes of workers. He indicated that statistics was being treated as a specialist subject when it should be included in general education and should play a key role in decision-making.

103. A second ISI paper concentrated on the paradox that, at a time of great need for statistical data, public confidence in statistics and statisticians was declining. The paper suggested that efforts be focused on educating data users and improving the profession of statisticians by employing total quality management, with an emphasis on customer needs and expectations. It was pointed out that there was an urgent need to improve both the image of statistics among the general public and the ability of all persons to analyse data; the ISI

Ad Hoc Committee on the Role of Statisticians and Statistics was preparing a report on what might be done in that area.

104. At the first IASE scientific meeting (Perugia, Italy, 23-24 August 1994), held in advance of the forty-ninth session of ISI, 160 participants attended; 14 papers were invited and 36 were contributed, and 13 poster presentations were made.

105. The forty-ninth session of ISI (Perugia, Italy, 25 August-3 September 1993) attracted more than 1,600 participants from all over the world and included the first General Assembly of IASE on 27 August; the Assembly confirmed the election of the new IASE Executive Committee for a two-year term.

106. Members of IASE and its Executive Committee, together with ISI representatives, met during the ICOTS IV meeting (Marrakech, Morocco, 25-30 July 1994), at the invitation of the Government of Morocco, to present recent scientific findings in the field of statistical education; discuss matters of relevance to the IASE and ISI statistical education programmes; and chart a course for the next biennium. ISI helped support the attendance of several participants from developing countries. The proceedings of the Conference have been prepared by the local organizers and may be ordered through the ISI Permanent Office.

107. A conference on the long-term perspectives of international statistics that will focus on the statistical implications of Scanning the Future, a publication developed by the Central Bureau of Statistics of the Netherlands, was scheduled to be held in Voorburg, the Netherlands, on 12 and 13 September 1994, to be organized by ISI and the Central Bureau of Statistics of the Netherlands and its Central Planning Bureau, in cooperation with Eurostat.

108. ISI has initiated a programme in which briefing seminars on international statistics are offered to chief statisticians who wish to expand their understanding of the existing international arrangements, with an inside look at the workings of an increasingly complex network; the project has been organized in cooperation with the Government of the Netherlands. Briefing seminars are organized for new chief statisticians on an individual basis and are custom-designed with particular regard to their special interests. As the seminars are held in the headquarters of Statistics Netherlands, the opportunity exists for participants to receive information on various aspects of the work carried on by one of the best statistical offices in the world. Although topics covered in the course of the seminar are selected on the basis of a questionnaire sent to chief statisticians in advance of their visit, all participants are given an in-depth review of the organization, funding, requirements and work-style of the major international organizations.

109. During the last three years of its operation, the ISI Research Centre, which also handled the materials of the Dynamic Data Base (DDB), suffered significant deficits that ultimately left the ISI Executive Committee with no other choice but to close down the Centre; its activities were discontinued on 31 December 1991. Since unanimous concern was expressed about the future of the invaluable data housed by the Research Centre, a proposal was made to UNFPA that it assist in the orderly distribution, maintenance, archiving and transfer of

the precious research and historic materials of DDB from ISI to organizations interested in obtaining the materials so as to ensure access to the data by future researchers; UNFPA agreed to the proposal in late 1992. In order to take advantage of technological progress in the field of data storage, it was decided to make use of the CD-ROM format; the CD-ROM format will also help to facilitate the copying and distribution of the data. DDB materials have been distributed to several international organizations, participating countries whose data are contained on the disk, and three international backup organizations. The disks have been made available to users in the developing countries and the economies in transition countries free of charge; in the developed countries, users are charged a modest fee. In order to provide for the archiving of the historical materials of DDB, a project was launched with vital assistance from UNFPA to transcribe the public tapes and distribute them in CD-ROM format to interested researchers and institutions over the world. In addition, all tapes (both public and restricted) were preserved in their original form for archival purposes, together with relevant documentation. Three bodies, Essex Data Archives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, DHS of the United States of America, and the Central Statistical Office of Hungary, agreed to serve as depositories and/or backup organizations for DDB materials. ISI will retain only five sets of the CD-ROM materials, all tapes and documentary materials having been transferred to the designated archival organizations.

110. To strengthen quantitative skills in the areas and populations that could benefit most from increased knowledge of numbers and applications, the possibilities for a world numeracy programme are being explored. In initiating such a programme, ISI would aim to spread the application of numerical skills world wide, with a special emphasis on youth. The programme would be considered to be analogous to the UNESCO World Literacy Programme, albeit on a smaller scale. The proposed central element of the programme is the creation and international dissemination of a 10-part series of television programmes, entitled "The world of numbers". Other projects for the programme, such as the establishment of an international museum of numbers, will be explored as appropriate. Due to its ambitious nature, a time-frame of at least three to five years will be required for implementation of the programme.

111. IASE has continued its regular feature on statistical education news items within the ISI Newsletter. The Newsletter article, which appears every February, June and October, includes news and announcements about upcoming and past meetings, publications and research, as well as guest reports from various contributors.

112. In order to promote interest in IASE activities and programmes, a new information supplement entitled "IASE matters" has been enclosed within the statistical education journal Teaching Statistics, sponsored by the Applied Probability Trust, the Institute of Statisticians, the Royal Statistical Society and ISI. The journal, which is directed at statistics and mathematics educators who teach students between the ages of 9 and 19, provides IASE and ISI with another outlet for the promotion of statistical education activities.

113. The IASE Review is an occasional publication for members of IASE. The goal of the publication is to give IASE members a comprehensive overview of IASE activities as IASE continues its rapid pace of development. It is intended that

information contained in the Review will have lasting value so that members can retain their copies for later reference; the first issue appeared in November 1993.

114. IASE has arranged to make information for and about its members available through the Journal of Statistics Education Information Service, an archive of information, software and discussions related to statistics and statistical education. The archive exists on the international computer network known as Internet and is housed and maintained by the Department of Statistics, North Carolina State University. The IASE archive is the newest addition to the information service and contains the names and addresses (post and E-mail) of IASE members and updated information on publications and meetings. The archive also contains the Journal of Statistics Education, a referenced electronic journal on post-secondary statistical education.

115. As a result of the Sixth Competition for Young Statisticians from Developing Countries, three gifted young statisticians were awarded their airfares and expenses to attend the forty-ninth session of ISI. Their participation was financed by International Statistics Studiefonds, a special fund created during the forty-fifth session of ISI to help promote statistical development in developing countries. The ISI Permanent Office received over 141 requests for application forms and 26 acceptable papers were submitted.

116. The Director-General of Statistics Netherlands has announced that the Netherlands' fund to support the Seventh Competition of Young Statisticians from Developing Countries will augment its support to the Competition by awarding a prize of 5,000 guilders to each winner in addition to the travel and per diem assistance previously awarded.

117. The International Statistical Education Centre (ISEC), located in Calcutta, was opened in 1950 and is operated by ISI and the Indian Statistical Institute, under the auspices of UNESCO and the Government of India. ISEC provides training in theoretical and applied statistics at various levels to selected participants from countries in the Middle East, South and South-East Asia, the Far East and Commonwealth countries in Asia. ISEC offers a 10-month (June through March) regular course of training every year. The courses are divided into two parts. The first eight months are devoted to training in general statistical methods, including a six-week source on official statistical systems conducted by the Central Statistical Organization of India. During the remaining two months, each trainee specializes in one selected branch of applied statistics. The course is offered through lectures, practical work and assignments, and guided reading. In addition to the regular course, a few persons are occasionally admitted on an individual basis for special courses of varying duration and in different subject areas. Facilities are also available for research work and advanced study by senior visiting statisticians from abroad. During the forty-fourth term (June 1991-March 1992) there were 11 trainees from 6 different countries in the regular course. During the forty-fifth term (June 1992-March 1993), there were 20 trainees from 9 different countries in the regular course. Instruction is provided at various levels by members of the Indian Statistical Institute, statistical officers of the Government of India and teachers from foreign universities; lectures are also provided by the United Nations and specialized agencies. In addition to the

routine annual expenses incurred by ISEC, such as the printing of prospectus and application forms, and office and staff costs, ISI has advanced ISEC 6,355 guilders towards the purchase of an advanced PC/XT and Xerox machines for the exclusive use of ISEC trainees. In 1993, as part of its visiting professor programme, ISI financed the visit of a Japanese professor of statistics, at a total cost of 10,500 guilders.

118. Indications are that statistical education will continue to play an important role in the wide range of activities of ISI. IASE, in particular, is showing strong signs of growth and will undoubtedly take the lead in the promotion of statistical education issues. Future meetings (the Fifth International Conference on Teaching Statistics (ICOTS V), IASE satellite meetings, round-table meetings etc.) and publications (proceedings, newsletters etc.) will serve to fulfil the IASE mandate and attract new members. ISI itself will take the lead in developing the above-mentioned world numeracy programme, which will be designed to promote numeracy on an international scale. ISI is also formulating plans for a special two-day conference on accuracy and timeliness in statistics (tentatively scheduled to be held in Washington, D.C., in September 1996).

C. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

119. OECD involvement in technical cooperation is limited exclusively to the economies in transition, details of which are contained in the integrated programme of work prepared by ECE, OECD and Eurostat, and in greater (country-by-country) detail in reports to the Steering Committee on Coordination of Technical Assistance in Statistics to the Countries of the former USSR.

120. Information on staff and other budget costs is not generally released by OECD; moreover, OECD work with the economies in transition is separately funded through the Centre for Cooperation with Economies in Transition. The work programme is organized primarily by country, groups of countries, and broad programme objectives. OECD has no regional experts or allocation for equipment, and separate figures for training are not available.

D. Inter-American Statistical Institute

121. The activities of the Institute are oriented

(a) To complement the work of other organizations on the development of governmental statistics in the Americas;

(b) To strengthen the role of the Institute in academic and professional statistical activities.

Its programmes emphasize scientific publications and technical meetings.

122. The Institute cooperates in the operation of the Inter-American Statistical Conference of OAS and participates in the meetings of directors of statistics organized by ECLAC.

123. The secretariat of the Institute and FAO, with the cooperation of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), organized the fourth session of a joint working group on agriculture statistics (Buenos Aires, April 1993). The series of seminars on applied statistics initiated in 1987 in Mar del Plata, Argentina, continued with a fourth seminar on the applications of statistical methods in the areas of biostatistics, health and environment (Sao Paulo, January 1993); the next seminar in the series, which will cover applications of statistics in agriculture, is to be held in Colombia in 1995. A selection of the papers discussed in these seminars is published in the journal of the Institute.

124. The Institute also co-sponsored the First Ibero-American Congress on Statistics Operations Research (Cáceres, Spain, September-October 1992), organized by the Spanish Society of Statistics and Operations Research; the Fifth Latin American Congress on Probability and Mathematical Statistics (Sao Paulo, June-July 1993), organized by the Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability; and the Second Latin American Congress of Statistical Societies (Buenos Aires, November 1993), organized jointly by the statistical societies of Argentina and Chile and the Universidad Católica Argentina, with the cooperation of the statistical societies of Brazil and Paraguay.

125. The aims of the Institute for the period 1992-1995 are oriented towards complementing the work of other organizations on the development of governmental statistics in the Americas and promoting the development of academic and professional statistical activities through scientific publications and technical meetings.

126. As to governmental statistics, the Institute will cooperate with the national statistical offices of the Americas, particularly in activities related to meetings of the heads of statistical offices. A seminar every second year will be organized within the framework of the series of seminars on applied statistics initiated in 1987 in Mar del Plata, Argentina. A selection of the papers discussed in those seminars is published in the journal of the Institute. The Institute also co-sponsored other technical meetings organized by scientific associations.

III. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

127. The Commission may wish to:

(a) Comment on global and regional issues in the technical cooperation programme in statistics, including its scope and composition;

(b) Review the implications of the new agency support cost arrangements for the United Nations technical cooperation programme in statistics and the availability of resources for the implementation of the programme.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 6 (E/1993/26), para. 180 (c).

2/ ESCAP data in the annex tables do not include SIAP expenditures.

3/ The Poland and Hungary action for the restructuring of the economy (PHARE) programme was first extended to include the Baltic States and currently benefits the countries of central and eastern Europe in general.

Annex

STATISTICAL TABLES

Table A.1. United Nations system expenditure, by organization and major component

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Organization and year	Total	Personnel a/	Field staff	Training b/	Equipment	Other
United Nations c/						
1991	30 580	5 123	11 218	4 133	6 876	3 230
1992	19 520	3 960	9 933	2 050	2 338	1 239
1993	17 928	3 552	9 003	1 892	2 249	1 232
1994 d/	18 051	3 841	6 775	3 714	2 326	1 395
FAO						
1991	14 800	2 100	7 480	1 890	2 180	1 150
1992	9 096	731	6 080	615	1 180	490
1993	9 809	723	4 924	1 336	2 381	445
1994 d/	9 131	420	4 654	1 946	1 876	235
ILO						
1991	778	341	412	25	-	-
1992	831	450	300	60	-	21
1993	745	400	300	45	-	-
1994 d/	684	221	338	75	-	50
UNESCO						
1991	623	60	143	134	264	22
1992	1 037	287	226	196	236	92
1993	705	301	242	63	21	78
1994 d/	723	230	41	66	46	340
UPU						
1991	92	-	16	32	44	-
1992	7	-	-	7	-	-
1993	39	-	24	15	-	-
1994 d/	46	-	26	20	-	-
WHO						
1991	9 802	2 336	1 710	4 944	812	-
1992	8 740	3 299	2 851	564	146	1 880
1993	10 536	3 302	2 901	1 067	316	2 950
1994 d/	9 767	3 195	2 589	657	12	3 314

Note: A hyphen (-) indicates that the item is not applicable or that the amount is negligible.

a/ United Nations Secretariat regional commissions and specialized agencies.

b/ Data do not include training provided by interregional, regional and technical advisers or project staff; such expenditure is included under personnel and field staff.

c/ United Nations Secretariat and regional commissions.

d/ Estimates based on the budget for 1994 at the beginning of the year.

Table A.2. United Nations expenditure, by major component

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Organization and year	Total	Personnel a/	Field staff	Training b/	Equipment	Other
United Nations						
1991	30 580	5 123	11 218	4 133	6 876	3 230
1992	19 520	3 960	9 933	2 050	2 338	1 239
1993	17 928	3 552	9 003	1 892	2 249	1 232
1994 c/	18 051	3 841	6 775	3 714	2 326	1 395
Secretariat						
1991	26 760	2 100	11 200	3 635	6 859	2 966
1992	16 876	2 045	9 784	1 480	2 338	1 229
1993	15 499	1 638	8 867	1 569	2 196	1 229
1994 c/	14 371	1 100	6 481	3 102	2 293	1 395
ECA						
1991	2 356	1 876	3	200	17	260
1992	1 073	1 073	-	-	-	-
1993	1 001	1 001	-	-	-	-
1994 c/	1 262	1 262	-	-	-	-
ECE						
1991	..	..	..	..	..	..
1992	96	96	-	-	-	-
1993	144	144	-	-	-	-
1994 c/	345	345	-	-	-	-
ESCAP						
1991	853	638	-	215	-	-
1992	942	463	-	469	-	10
1993	768	472	-	295	-	1
1994 c/	1 184	700	-	484	-	-
ESCWA						
1991	408	408	-	-	-	-
1992	319	283	-	36	-	-
1993	304	297	-	5	-	2
1994 c/	496	434	-	62	-	-
ECLAC						
1991	203	101	15	83	-	4
1992	214	-	149	65	-	-
1993	212	-	136	23	53	-
1994 c/	393	-	294	66	33	-

Note: A hyphen (-) indicates that the item is not applicable or that the amount is negligible; two dots (..) indicate that the data are not available or are not reported separately.

a/ United Nations Secretariat regional commissions.

b/ Not including training provided by interregional, regional and technical advisers or project staff; such expenditure is included under personnel and field staff.

c/ Estimates based on the budget for 1994 at the beginning of the year.

Table A.3. United Nations system expenditure, by organization and region

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Organization and region a/	1991	1992	1993	1994 b/
United Nations Secretariat				
Total	26 760	16 876	15 499	14 371
Africa	14 694	9 000	7 937	7 361
Asia	3 980	2 072	1 368	2 153
Middle East and Europe c/	6 511	4 268	5 089	4 394
Americas	1 575	1 536	1 105	463
Regional commissions				
Total	3 820	2 644	2 429	3 680
ECA	2 356	1 073	1 001	1 262
ECE	..	96	144	345
ESCAP	853	942	768	1 184
ESCWA	408	319	304	496
ECLAC	203	214	212	393
FAO				
Total d/	14 800	9 096	9 809	9 131
Africa	10 300	5 438	4 335	4 059
Asia and the Pacific	2 900	2 571	4 396	3 926
Western Asia	90	163	167	259
Latin America and the Caribbean	910	524	421	167
Global	600	400	490	720
ILO				
Total	778	831	745	684
Africa c/	330	700	500	239
Asia c/	114	21	60	150
Middle East	103	10	20	80
Latin America	-	40	15	15
Europe	-	60	150	200
Others	231	-	-	-
UNESCO				
Total	623	1 037	705	723
Africa	106	316	275	513
Asia	466	645	385	152
Arab countries	14	16	12	27
Latin America and the Caribbean	26	60	33	31
Other	11	-	-	-

Organization and region a/	1991	1992	1993	1994 b/
UPU				
Total	92	7	39	46
Africa	41	7	25	37
Asia and the Pacific	41	-	-	-
Arab countries	-	-	14	9
Latin America and the Caribbean	-	-	-	-
Europe	10	-	-	-
WHO				
Total	9 802	8 740	10 536	9 767
Africa	1 226	759	1 077	890
Western Pacific	1 160	648	894	363
South-East Asia	2 245	1 478	2 220	2 694
Eastern Mediterranean	1 099	543	1 224	544
Europe	612	752	881	1 148
Latin America and the Caribbean	3 460	4 560	4 240	4 128

Note: A hyphen (-) indicates that the item is not applicable or that the amount is negligible; two dots (..) indicate that the data are not available or are not reported separately.

a/ Regional groupings may vary according to organization.

b/ Estimates based on the budget for 1994 at the beginning of the year.

c/ Including regional and interregional projects.

d/ Including assistance provided in the fields of forestry and fishery statistics.

Table A.4. United Nations system expenditure, by organization and subject area

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Organization and subject area	1991	1992	1993	1994 a/
United Nations b/				
Multisector statistics	1 331	1 277	2 255	759
National accounts and other economic statistics	3 821	3 308	2 520	2 321
Demographic statistics c/	19 920	12 593	10 831	13 446
Data processing and informatics	4 322	1 738	1 818	1 052
Other	983	390	292	80
Total	30 377	19 306	17 716	17 658
FAO				
Multisector statistics	11 760	5 461	4 851	4 039
National accounts and other economic statistics	-	2 270	3 355	3 345
Demographic statistics c/	-	-	-	-
Data processing and informatics	3 040	1 365	1 603	1 747
Other	-	-	-	-
Total	14 800	9 096	9 809	9 131
ILO				
Multisector statistics	-	-	-	-
National accounts and other economic statistics	-	-	-	-
Demographic statistics c/	-	-	-	-
Data processing and informatics	-	-	-	-
Other d/	778	831	745	684
Total	778	831	745	684

Organization and subject area	1991	1992	1993	1994 a/
UNESCO				
Multisector statistics	-	-	-	-
National accounts and other economic statistics	-	-	-	-
Demographic statistics c/	-	-	-	-
Data processing and informatics	-	-	-	-
Other e/	623	1 037	705	723
Total	623	1 037	705	723
UPU				
Multisector statistics	-	-	-	-
National accounts and other economic statistics	-	-	-	-
Demographic statistics c/	-	-	-	-
Data processing and informatics	58	-	-	-
Other	34	7	39	46
Total	92	7	39	46
WHO				
Multisector statistics	-	-	-	-
National accounts and other economic statistics	-	-	-	-
Demographic statistics c/	-	-	-	-
Data processing and informatics	302	-	180	10
Other f/	9 500	8 740	10 356	9 757
Total	9 802	8 740	10 536	9 767

Note: A hyphen (-) indicates that the item is not applicable or that the amount is negligible.

a/ Estimates based on the budget for 1994 at the beginning of the year.

b/ United Nations Secretariat and regional commissions, excluding ECLAC.

c/ Including population censuses, census and survey cartography, sampling and surveys, household surveys and statistics on women.

d/ Labour statistics.

e/ Educational, technological and culture-related areas.

f/ Health-sector statistics related to epidemiology, health services and health resources.

Table A.5. United Nations expenditure, by subject area

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Organization and subject area	1991	1992	1993	1994 a/
United Nations Secretariat				
Multisector statistics	1 331	1 233	2 212	677
National accounts and other economic statistics	3 294	2 748	2 054	1 571
National accounts, finance and prices	391	336	287	659
External trade, transport and energy	1 002	500	380	31
Other economic statistics	1 901	1 912	1 387	881
Demographic statistics b/	18 192	11 523	9 798	11 589
Demographic and social statistics	4 059	3 334	3 262	4 736
Population censuses	13 514	7 514	6 192	6 414
Census and survey cartography	467	529	305	305
Sampling and surveys	152	146	39	134
Data processing and informatics	3 943	1 372	1 435	534
Other	-	-	-	-
Total	26 760	16 876	15 499	14 371
ECA				
Multisector statistics	-	-	-	-
National accounts and other economic statistics	163	101	103	105
Demographic statistics b/	1 151	796	720	975
Data processing and informatics	229	176	178	182
Other	813	-	-	-
Total	2 356	1 073	1 001	1 262
ECE				
Multisector statistics	..	44	43	82
National accounts and other economic statistics	..	24	24	164
Demographic statistics b/	..	-	-	22
Data processing and informatics	..	28	77	77
Other	..	-	-	-
Total	..	96	144	345

Organization and subject area	1991	1992	1993	1994 a/
ESCAP				
Multisector statistics	-	-	-	-
National accounts and other economic statistics	236	298	209	295
Demographic statistics b/	447	254	269	744
Data processing and informatics	-	-	-	65
Other	170	390	290	80
Total	853	942	768	1 184
ESCWA				
Multisector statistics	-	-	-	-
National accounts and other economic statistics	128	137	130	186
Demographic statistics b/	130	20	44	116
Data processing and informatics	150	162	128	194
Other	-	-	2	-
Total	408	319	304	496
ECLAC				
Multisector statistics	..	..	..	..
National accounts and other economic statistics	..	..	..	..
Demographic statistics b/	..	..	..	..
Data processing and informatics	..	..	..	..
Other	..	..	..	..
Total	203	214	212	393
United Nations total	30 580	19 520	17 928	18 051

Note: A hyphen (-) indicates that the item is not applicable or amount negligible; two dots (..) indicate that the data are not available or are not reported separately.

a/ Estimates based on the budget for 1992 at the beginning of the year.

b/ Including social statistics, population censuses, census and survey cartography, sampling and surveys, household surveys and statistics on women.